the sanction of long usage behind them and that nothing would be more unreasonable than to expect them to disappear in the twinkling of an eye, and remembering also that such disabilities are bound to disappear with the spread of education and with the change in national ideals and outlook? It is as great a folly to think of forcing the pace of social progress, as it is to think of offering resistance to its measured march. While every effort in the direction of social amelioration will receive the sympathetic support of Government, so long as it is carried on in a calm and healthy spirit, every one will do well to remember that any attempt bordering on intimidation, violence or transgression of law, must recoil with crushing effect on the wrong-doer. Government can only stand for reasonable progress and they cannot too strongly condemn every movement that is calculated to intensify class hatred and bitterness and encourage lawlessness.

FINANCE.

36. In the earlier parts of my address, I emphasised the need for reform and improvement in a variety of directions. It is hardly necessary for me to point out that most of these reforms and improvements mean additional expenditure, and that no headway worth the name can be made by the Government without a substantial increase in their financial resources. The problem of finance has therefore to be faced, and in doing so it is well to remember that it would be advisable, if possible, not to go in for any fresh impost on land. We have to look to other sources to enhance our income and meet our growing expenditure. There is a wide-spread feeling that the professional and trading classes are not shouldering their due share of the fiscal burden, and knowing as the Government do that this feeling is well-grounded, the first source to which they propose to turn for additional revenue is the income tax. This tax has the merit of yielding a progressively growing income to the State as trade and business activities increase in the country. But an income tax, by itself, is not likely to give the full measure of relief needed to remove the strain on our finance. On a rough calculation made on the basis of the rates which prevailed in British India under the old Income Tax Act, it is found that this tax is not likely to add more than Rs. 3 lakhs to the coffers of the State, and it will be necessary to tap other sources of income, if the general revenues of the State do not exhibit adequate elasticity. The problem is an exceedingly difficult and complicate one and can only be tackled with the help of expert advice. Government are considering the expediency of appointing a Committee of Ways and Means, presided over by a competent person, and it will give them the sincerest pleasure to associate a few non-officials with that Committee.

CONCLUSION.

37. The outlook of progressive peoples all over the world is rapidly changing. The strenuous times through which the world has recently passed have demonstrated the advantages of unity, and the beneficial effects of co-operation and combination. They have revealed new and unsuspected values in organisation, collective enterprise and governmental control of concerns of national importance. The aim of every civilised Government is the same, *viz.*, the promotion of the material comforts of the people and the acceleration of their moral, social and political progress. Every progressive nation is endeavouring to secure for itself better organisation, greater efficiency in administration, heartier co-operation between the Government and the people, improved methods of manufacture, cheaper supply of raw materials, and increased enterprise in trade. The developments I have projected in this address are in consonance with the trend of this new thought and their realisation depends largely on the willing and cheerful co-operation of the people with the Government. Ample opportunities for political and civic training have been afforded to the people by the privileges already conferred and will be afforded in even a greater measure by those yet to be conferred. It is for you, the enlightened subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, to take full advantage of these opportunities, to make yourselves more and more responsible for the administration of local affairs, and to strengthen the hands of Government, whose interests, you may ever rest assured,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

are absolutely identical with those of the people committed to their care. I feel confident that I am not appealing in vain to your patriotism and public spirit when I ask you to co-operate with the Government in carrying out the beneficent intentions of His Gracious Highness the Maha Raja."

The Assembly adjourned at 1-10 P. M., to meet again the next day.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly